

*An Offer of Mediation to  
Richard D. Spaight<sup>6</sup>*

[April 19, 1827]

It has been suggested to the undersigned by many of the respectable and reciprocal friends of M<sup>r</sup> Spaight and D<sup>r</sup> Carthy that their interposition might be useful towards settling the unfortunate misunderstanding which has taken place between them—Yeilding to this suggestion and anxious from the purest motives to promote an end so desirable, we have undertaken the office—The undersigned are confident that they have a full view of the whole grounds of the controversy, and unite in the following opinions and awards—

1<sup>st</sup> It is our opinion and belief that the acts & occurrences that proved offensive to M<sup>r</sup> Spaight were not designed or intended to be insulting—

2<sup>nd</sup> That however harmlessly they may have been intended, they were inappropriate to the place and offensive in their character, and sufficient to justify M<sup>r</sup> Spaight in receiving them offensively, and requiring of D<sup>r</sup> Carthy an explanation of his conduct that should be satisfactory—

3<sup>rd</sup> It is our opinion that an absolute challenge in this state of things is premature; because it precludes explanation on the part of the party challenged, and ought only (2) to be resorted to when the offended party had made up his mind that mortal combat and that only should atone for the offence—

Under this view of the case the undersigned conclude that M<sup>r</sup> Spaight's note to D<sup>r</sup> Carthy ought to be withdrawn to afford opportunity to the latter Gentleman to make explanation—And the challenge being withdrawn that D<sup>r</sup> Carthy is bound to disclaim all intention of insulting M<sup>r</sup> Spaight by the conduct excepted to and apologise for its freedom and that such explanation ought to be received by M<sup>r</sup> Spaight as satisfactory—

It is expected by the Undersigned that the parties concerned will signify to them in writing under seal, their acquiescence in or rejection of these terms of accomodation on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July next, to be

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<sup>6</sup> Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr. (1796-1850), son of a former governor who was killed in a duel in 1802, was an influential politician from New Bern. A graduate of the University of North Carolina and a successful lawyer, Spaight served in both houses of the state legislature almost continuously from 1819 to 1834. He served in the United State Congress (1823-1825) as well, and in 1835 he was elected governor of North Carolina, serving until 1836. Spaight then returned to his law practice in New Bern. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 559n; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 666; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, IV, 402-405.